Free rice to flood affected states

4141. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have allocated rice to some flood affected States free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) what other free assistance is being extended by the Central Government to the flood affected States during the year 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have so far allocated 5000 tonnes of rice free of cost to Kerala for Food for Programme in rain/flood affected areas.

(c) Free assistance was provided by Government of India in rescue and relief operation air-dropping of relief materials, food packets and supply of medicine.

Changes in public distribution system

4142. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has suggested changes in the overall Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prevent black marketing of grains meant for below poverty line population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has explored various approaches of dealing with PDS during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. However, the Approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council and has not been finalised.